

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-02 IO-14 SAB-01 SAM-01 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

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R 031140Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0417

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 3237

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: KU, PINS, PFOR

SUBJ: ACTIVITIES OF A RENEGADE FATAH GROUP IN KUWAIT

SUMMARY: RENEGADE FATAH GROUP IN KUWAIT ATTACKS PLO AND FATAH LEADERSHIP FOR ITS "SURRENDER" POLICY AND ALLEGED MISUSE OF FUNDS. WE CAN PROBABLY EXPECT MORE SUCH ATTACKS AS OPENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE APPROACHES. END SUMMARY

1. ON JULY 29 REPORTERS OF LEADING KUWAIT DAILIES WERE CALLED TO RATHER UNUSUAL PRESS CONFERENCE BY INDIVIDUAL WHO STATED THAT IF MEDIA WISHED TO HEAR IMPORTANT STATEMENT BY FATAH THEY SHOULD BE ON A CERTAIN CORNER AT A CERTAIN TIME THAT EVENING. INTRIGUED, NEWSMEN ALL SHOWED UP AND WERE USHERED INTO CARS AND BROUGHT TO APARTMENT IN SALMIYAH, SUBURB OF KUWAIT. THERE THEY WERE CONFRONTED BY MAN WEARING MASK WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS ABU MAHMUD.

2. ABU MAHMUD READ PREPARED STATEMENT OF 14 PAGES WHICH LATER DISTRIBUTED TO NEWSMEN. HE ATTACKED PLO AND FATAH LEADERSHIP
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FOR THEIR SURRENDER POLICY AND ASSERTED LEADERSHIP NO LONGER

REPRESENTED WILL OF PALESTINIAN STRUGGLERS. HE ALSO ACCUSED LEADERSHIP OF MISUSING FUNDS ALLOTTED TO PLO. ABU MAHMUD STATED THAT HE WAS SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF "PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE FOURTH COMBINED MOVEMENT CONFERENCE" WHICH REPRESENTED NEW THRUST OF PALESTINIAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT WHICH WAS OPPOSED TO "SURRENDER ATTITUDE" ADOPTED AFTER OCTOBER WAR.

3. COMMENT: "PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE FOURTH COMBINED MOVEMENT CONFERENCE REFLECTS VIEWS OF FORMER PLO REPRESENTATIVE IN BAGHDAD ABU NIDAL (SABRI AL-BANNA). ABU NIDAL, FATAH RENEGADE SUPPORTED BY IRAQ, WAS DEPOSED AS PLO REPRESENTATIVE BY ORDER OF PLO/EC WHICH ALSO DECLARED AT SAME TIME THAT VOICE OF PALESTINE PROGRAM EMANATING FROM BAGHDAD NO LONGER REPRESENTED VIEWS OF PLO. ABU NIDAL WAS ALSO EXPELLED FROM FATAH.

4. ABU MAHMUD BELIEVED TO BE RADHA SALIH, BROTHER OF NIMR SALIH, MEMBER OF FATAH'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE. RIDHA SALIH IS KNOWN TO HEAD ABU NIDAL WING OF FATAH IN KUWAIT.

5. AS GENEVA CONFERENCE DRAWS CLOSER, THOSE OPPOSED TO ATTENDING CAN BE EXPECTED TO BECOME MORE VOCAL. ABU MAHMUD'S "PRESS CONFERENCE" IS MANIFESTATION OF THAT OPPOSITION IN KUWAIT. STATEMENT HAS BEEN DENOUNCED BY KUWAIT BRANCH OF PLO. THERE IS, HOWEVER, FEELING AMONG YOUNG PALESTINIANS TO WHICH ABU MAHMUD'S STATEMENT APPEALS. THIS FEELING IS THAT PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, YASIR ARAFAT, HAS ACQUIRED PERSONAL POSITION REMINISCENT OF THAT ONCE HELD BY EX-PLO LEADER AHMAD SHUQAYRI, I.E. HE NEED NOT CONSULT WITH THE RADICAL YOUTH BEFORE MAKING HIS DECISIONS, IDEA BEING "WHAT IS GOOD FOR ARAFAT, IS GOOD FOR THE PLO." THE "YOUNG STRUGGLERS" SEE ARAFAT LESS AS A DECISIVE LEADER THAN AN ARROGANT ONE.
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